

#### United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service

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SUBJECT:

3101 Park Center Drive Alexandria

VA 22302

Additional Guidance for the Implementation of the

Administrative Reviews in School Nutrition Programs Final

Rule

TO: Regional Directors

**Special Nutrition Programs** 

All Regions

**State Directors** 

**Child Nutrition Programs** 

All States

This memorandum provides additional guidance to assist in implementing the final rule, Administrative Reviews in School Nutrition Programs, effective September 27, 2016. The guidance included in this memorandum is intended to assist with the completion of administrative reviews conducted after this effective date. This memorandum focuses on several provisions of the final rule, including:

- Fiscal Action for Performance Standard 1 Violations (PS-1)
- Annual SFA on-site reviews of the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- State Agency Transparency Requirement

This memorandum supersedes memorandum SP 14-2011, Prototype Checklists for School Food Authorities (SFAs) for Conducting Annual On-site Reviews.

#### Fiscal Action for Performance Standard 1 Violations

For the Certification and Benefit Issuance portion of the updated administrative review, 7 CFR Part 210.18(g) of the final rule requires the State agencies to review certifications/benefit issuance for all the schools under the School Food Authority's (SFA's) jurisdiction, not just the reviewed schools. Section 210.18(l)(1) of this final rule applies fiscal action for certification and benefit issuance errors to the entire SFA, including non-reviewed schools.

To calculate fiscal action for SFA errors in certification and benefit issuance, State agencies can use one of several methods for data entry into the Administrative Review Fiscal Action Workbook (FA Workbook) for SFAs undergoing an administrative review. These methods differ in the way the data is entered into the FA Workbook, but result in the same fiscal action calculation.

The method selected by a State agency will likely depend largely on whether site-based claiming is utilized and any need to allocate fiscal action from the SFA to individual sites. The methods available include:

- 1) Entering all schools (reviewed and non-reviewed schools) in the SFA into the FA Workbook as individual entries in separate rows. Complete the columns and sections of the FA Workbook for each row entry as applicable.
- 2) Compile the fiscal action calculation for certification and benefit issuance for the SFA into a single entry in a single row of the FA Workbook. Below this row, list all reviewed sites where additional fiscal action was taken, completing the columns and sections of the FA Workbook as applicable.
- 3) Combine all fiscal action (certification and benefit issuance, other PS-1, PS-2, other) into a single entry in a single row of the FA Workbook. Complete the sections of the FA Workbook as applicable.

#### SFA Annual On-Site Reviews of SBP and NSLP

In addition to the review requirements already in place at 7 CFR Part 210.8(a)(1) for an annual SFA on-site review of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the final rule adds this review requirement for the School Breakfast Program (SBP) at 7 CFR Part 220.11(d)(1). SFAs are required to establish internal controls which ensure the accuracy of meal counts prior to the submission of the monthly Claim for Reimbursement. The internal controls must include an on-site review of the readily observable general areas of review identified under 7 CFR 210.18(h) and the meal counting and claiming system employed by each school (as defined in 7 CFR Part 210.2) approved to participate in the NSLP and at 50% of the schools approved to participate in the SBP within the jurisdiction of the SFA. While the annual requirement is to complete 50% of the schools approved to participate in the SBP in the SFA's jurisdiction, each school approved to participate in the SBP must be reviewed at least once every two years. SFAs with only one school are not required to conduct such on-site reviews for their approved school. However, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) highly encourages those SFAs to conduct a self-assessment in the form of an on-site review to ensure integrity and accountability of the Programs.

Every school year (as defined in 7 CFR Part 210.2, July 1 to June 30), each SFA with more than one school must perform no less than one on-site review of the meal counting and claiming system and the readily observable general areas of review identified under 7 CFR 210.18(h) in each school operating the NSLP and 50% of schools operating the SBP administered by the SFA.

## Regional and State Directors Page 3

The on-site review must take place prior to February 1 of each school year. If the review discloses problems with a school's meal counting and claiming procedures or general review areas, the SFA must ensure that the school implements corrective action, and within 45 days of the review, conduct a follow-up on-site review to determine that the corrective action resolved the problems. Each on-site review must ensure the school's claim is based on the counting and claiming system, as implemented, and yields the actual number of reimbursable free, reduced price, and paid meals, respectively, served for each day of operation.

In an effort to assist SFAs in conducting these reviews, FNS is providing an optional prototype checklist (Attachment A) for SFAs to use as a resource when conducting onsite reviews. The content of the prototype checklist covers the minimum requirements for the on-site reviews; therefore, SFAs do not need to make changes to their existing on-site review form(s) unless it does not reflect the information contained in the FNS prototype checklist. If a checklist for on-site reviews is not already in place at the SFA level, FNS highly recommends that State agencies provide SFAs with the prototype checklist attached to this memorandum for conducting on-site reviews. The checklist assesses meal counting and claiming procedures, system accuracy, point of service, and readily observable general areas of review as applicable.

## **State Agency Transparency Requirement**

Section 207 of the HHFKA amended section 22 of the NSLA (42 U.S.C. 1769c) to require State agencies to report the final results of the administrative review to the public in an accessible, easily understood manner in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Secretary. The final rule at 7 CFR 210.18(m) requires the State agency to post a summary of the most recent final administrative review results for each SFA on the State agency's publicly available website, and allows the State agency to strongly encourage each SFA to post a summary on the SFA's public website.

The results summary must include access and reimbursement (including eligibility and certification review results), an SFA's compliance with the meal pattern and the nutritional quality of school meals, the results of the review of the school nutrition environment (including food safety, local school wellness policy, and competitive foods), compliance related to civil rights, and general program participation. At a minimum, this summary would include the written notification of review findings provided to the SFAs Superintendent or equivalent as required at 7 CFR 210.18(i)(3).

State agencies must post this summary no later than 30 days after the State agency provides the final results of the administrative review to the SFA.

Regional and State Directors Page 4

The results summary must remain available until a more recent results summary becomes available. The State agency must also make a copy of the final administrative review report available to the public upon request.

In an effort to assist State agencies in completing this transparency requirement, FNS has drafted a prototype summary template (Attachment B). This prototype summary template includes the minimum requirements for the publicly posted review summary; therefore, State agencies may use their own summary templates as long as their template and resulting summaries reflect, at minimum, the information contained in the FNS prototype summary template.

State agencies are reminded to distribute this information to Program operators immediately. Program operators should direct any questions regarding this memorandum to the appropriate State agency. State agencies should direct questions to the appropriate FNS Regional Office.



Sarah E. Smith-Holmes Director Program Monitoring and Operational Support Division Child Nutrition Programs

### APPENDIX A

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# SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITY ON-SITE REVIEW CHECKLIST ASSESSMENT OF THE MEAL COUNTING AND CLAIMING SYSTEM AND READILY OBSERVABLE GENERAL AREAS FOR THE SBP AND NSLP

According to 7 CFR 210.8(a)(1) and 7 CFR 220.11(d)(1), every school year, prior to February 1, each School Food Authority (SFA) with more than one school (as defined by 7 CFR Part 210.2 to include Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs)) must perform no less than one on-site review of the meal counting and claiming system and the readily observable general areas of review identified under 7 CFR 210.18(h) in each school operating the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and 50% of schools operating the School Breakfast Program (SBP) under its jurisdiction.

Each on-site review must ensure the school's claim is based on the counting and claiming system, as implemented, and yields the actual number of reimbursable free, reduced price, and paid meals, respectively, served for each day of operation.

If the review discloses problems with a school's meal counting and claiming procedures or general review areas, the SFA must ensure that the school implements corrective action, and within 45 days of the review, conduct a follow-up on-site review to determine that the corrective action resolved the problems.

Daviery Deter

SCHOO	Mann	Review Date.						
SFA F	Review	er:						
SCHO	OL B	REAK	FAST	PROG	RAM ON-SITE REVIEW			
The fo	llowing	g quest	ions ar	e recom	mended at a minimum to complete the on-site review requirement:			
YES	NO				MEAL COUNTING AND CLAIMING SYSTEM			
		ŗ	oint of	f service	sed for counting reimbursable meals in compliance with the approved requirement? (Meal counts must be taken at the location(s) where are served to children.)			
		2. Is the point of service meal count used to determine the school's claim for reimbursement?						
			3. Is the person responsible for monitoring and counting meals correctly identifying reimbursable meals?					
		4. I	4. Is the school correctly implementing policies for handling the following (as applicable):					
		Yes	No	N/A				
					Incomplete meals?			
					Second meals?			
					Lost, stolen, misused, forgotten or destroyed tickets, tokens, IDs, etc.?			
					Visiting student meals?			
					Adult and non-student meals (and identifying program vs non-program)?			
					A la carte?			

Charged and/or prepaid meals?

Student worker meals?

Field Trips?

Offer vs Serve?
Unpaid meal charges

	5. Is there a method of identifying non-reimbursable meals (i.e., not meeting meal pattern
	requirements, seconds, adult meals, etc.) and distinguishing them from reimbursable
	meals?

	1	T									
YES	NO	MEAL COUNTING AND CLA									
		6. Is someone trained as a backup for the monit									
		7. Are there procedures for meal counting and claiming when the primary counting and									
		claiming system is not available? Do staff know when and how to implement them?									
		8. Are daily counts correctly totaled and record	ed?								
		9. If claims are aggregated, are the meal counts	correctly totaled and consolidated?								
		10. Are internal controls (edits, monitoring, etc.)	established to ensure that daily counts do								
		not exceed the number of students eligible or	in attendance and that an accurate claim is								
		made?									
		Record today's meal counts by category and compare to the total number of students									
		eligible by category									
		Number of Students Approved by Category	Today's Meal Counts by Category								
		Free:	Free:								
		Reduced Price:	Reduced Price:								
		Paid:	Paid								
		11. Does the system prevent overt identification	of children receiving free or reduced price								
		meals?									
NOTI	E: The	following two questions are for all SFAs except	for SFAs on Provision 2 or 3 in non-base								
		years, CEP, or RCCIs with only res	idential children								
YES	NO										
		12. Is a current eligibility list kept up-to-date and	d used by the meal counting system to								
		provide an accurate daily count of reimbursal	ble meals by category (free, reduced price,								
		paid)?									
		13. If applicable according to 7 CFR 220.11(d) a	re comparisons of daily free, reduced price								
		and paid breakfast counts against data which	will assist in the identification of breakfast								
		counts in excess of the number of free, reduced price and paid breakfasts served each									
		day to children eligible for such breakfasts co	ompleted?								
SBP C	ORRI	ECTIVE ACTION PLAN (for any "NO" answer	rs above):								
are a		AME ORD CORRECTION A CONTOUR OF THE									
SPEC	IFY D	ATE SBP CORRECTIVE ACTION(S) WILL B	SE IMPLEMENTED:								
BY W	HOM:										

YES	NO	READILY OBSERVABLE GENERAL AREAS				
		1. W	ere an	v issues readily observed in relation to resource managemen	nt?	
		YES	NO			
				Maintenance of the Nonprofit School Food Service Account	ant? (7 CFR 210.2,	
				210.14, 210.19(a), 210.21)		
				Paid Lunch Equity? (7 CFR 210.14(e))		
				Revenue from Nonprogram Foods? (7 CFR 210.14(f))		
				Indirect Costs? (2 CFR Part 200 and 7 CFR 210.14(g))		
			ere an	y issues readily observed in other general areas?		
		YES	NO			
				Free and Reduced Price Process – including verification,	notification, and	
				other procedures (7 CFR Part 245)		
				Civil Rights (7 CFR 210.23(b))		
				Reporting and Recordkeeping (7 CFR Parts 210, 220, and	1 245)	
				Food Safety (7 CFR 210.13)		
				Competitive Food Service (7 CFR 210.11 and 220.12)		
				Water (7 CFR 210.10(a)(1)(i) and 220.8(a)(1))		
				Professional Standards (7 CFR 210.30)		
				SBP and SFSP Outreach (7 CFR 210.12(d))		
				Local School Wellness Policies (7 CFR 210.30)		
				Other		
			BP CO	RRECTIVE ACTION(S) WILL BE IMPLEMENTED:		
BY W						
223117	-1010		ool Repr	esentative Title	Date	
	SFA	Reviewer		Title	Date	

SBP FOLLOW-UP VISIT (must be conducted within 45 days if corrective action was required):							
Date(s) of Follow-Up:							
Observations of corrective action implementation:							
•							
SIGNATURE:	Tidl	D-4-					
School Representative	Title	Date					
SFA Reviewer	Title	Date					

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH FROGRAM ON-SITE REVIEW (REVIEW Date:	NATIONAL SCHOOL	LUNCH PROGRAM ON-SITE REVIE	V (Review Date:
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The following questions are recommended at a minimum to complete the on-site review requirement:

YES	NO			ľ	MEAL COUNTING AND	CLAIMING SYSTEM		
			14. Is the method used for counting reimbursable meals in compliance with the approved					
						must be taken at the location(s) where		
					are served to children.)			
					rvice meal count used to de	etermine the school's claim for		
				sement?	11.0			
				rson res	ponsible for monitoring me	als correctly identifying reimbursable		
			eals?	hool cor	rootly implementing policie	os for handling the following (as applicable):		
		Yes	17. Is the school correctly implementing policies for handling the following (as applicable):  Yes No N/A					
					Incomplete meals?			
		Ш		Ш	•	eals (and identifying program vs non-		
			Adult and non-student meals (and identifying program vs non-program)?					
		П	☐ ☐ A la carte?					
					Field Trips?			
					Charged and/or prepaid n	neals?		
					Offer vs Serve?			
					Unpaid meal charges?			
						rrsable meals (i.e. not meeting meal pattern		
			-	nents, se	conds, adult meals, etc.) an	d distinguishing them from reimbursable		
		m	neals?					
YES	NO	MEAL COUNTING AND CLAIMING SYSTEM CONT.						
		19. Is someone trained as a backup for the monitor and the meal counter?						
		20. Are there procedures for meal counting and claiming when the primary counting and						
		claiming system is not available? Do staff know when and how to implement them?  21. Are daily counts correctly totaled and recorded?						
		21. Are daily counts correctly totaled and recorded?  22. If claims are aggregated, are the meal counts correctly totaled and consolidated?						
		22. If claims are aggregated, are the meal counts correctly totaled and consolidated?  23. Are internal controls (edits, monitoring, etc.) established to ensure that daily counts do						
		not exceed the number of students eligible or in attendance and that an accurate claim is						
		made?						
		Record today's meal counts by category and compare to the total number of students						
			eligible by category					
			er of S	Students	S Approved by Category	Today's Meal Counts by Category		
		Free:				Free:		
			ed Pric	ce:		Reduced Price:		
		Paid:				Paid		
				system	prevent overt identification	n of children receiving free or reduced price		
		m	neals?					

NOTE: The following two questions are for all SFAs <u>except</u> for SFAs on Provision 2 or 3 in non-base years, CEP, or RCCIs with only residential children							
YES NO	·						
	25. Is a current eligibility list kept up-to-date and used by the meal counting system to provide an accurate daily count of reimbursable meals <b>by category</b> (free, reduced price, paid)?						
	26. If applicable according to 7 CFR 210.8(a)(3), are edit checks completed and documented which compare the daily counts of free, reduced price, and paid meals against the product of the number of children currently eligible for free, reduced price, and paid meals, respectively, times an attendance factor (and any discrepancies accounted for)?						
SPECIFY D.	ATE NSLP CORRECTIVE ACTION(S) WILL BE IMPLEMENTED:						

BY WHOM: \_\_\_\_\_

NSLP CORRE	READILY OBSERVABLE GENERAL AREAS				
NSLP CORRE	3. W	3. W	ere an	y issues readily observed in relation to resource management?	
NSLP CORRE	YES		NO	,	
NSLP CORRE				Maintenance of the Nonprofit School Food Service Account? (7 CFR 210.2, 210.14, 210.19(a), 210.21)	
NSLP CORRE	П	П	П	Paid Lunch Equity? (7 CFR 210.14(e))	
NSLP CORRE	П		П	Revenue from Nonprogram Foods? (7 CFR 210.14(f))	
NSLP CORRE	П		П	Indirect Costs? (2 CFR Part 200 and 7 CFR 210.14(g))	
NSLP CORRE		]		y issues readily observed in other general areas?	
NSLP CORRE	YES		NO	,, g	
SPECIFY DAT				Free and Reduced Price Process – including verification, notification, and	
SPECIFY DAT		_		other procedures (7 CFR Part 245)	
SPECIFY DAT				Civil Rights (7 CFR 210.23(b))	
SPECIFY DAT				Reporting and Recordkeeping (7 CFR Parts 210, 220, and 245)	
SPECIFY DAT				Food Safety (7 CFR 210.13)	
SPECIFY DAT	П	П		Competitive Food Service (7 CFR 210.11 and 220.12)	
SPECIFY DAT		П		Water (7 CFR 210.10(a)(1)(i) and 220.8(a)(1))	
SPECIFY DAT	П			Professional Standards (7 CFR 210.30)	
SPECIFY DAT	П			SBP and SFSP Outreach (7 CFR 210.12(d))	
SPECIFY DAT	П		П	Local School Wellness Policies (7 CFR 210.30)	
SPECIFY DAT	П		П	Other	
SIGNATURE:				ORRECTIVE ACTION(S) WILL BE IMPLEMENTED:	
	Sch	Scho	ol Repr	resentative Title Date	

SFA Reviewer

Title

Date

IGNATURE:    School Representative   Title   Date	Date(s) of Follow-Up:									
IGNATURE: Title Date										
School Representative Title Date	Observations of corrective action implementat	corrective action implementation:								
School Representative Title Date										
School Representative Title Date										
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	School Representative	Title	Date							
YEA DOMOTION TELL	SFA Reviewer									

## APPENDIX B

## STATE AGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW SUMMARY

Section 207 of the HHFKA amended section 22 of the NSLA (42 U.S.C. 1769c) to require State agencies to report the final results of the administrative review to the public in an accessible, easily understood manner in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Secretary. Regulations at 7 CFR 210.18(m) requires the State agency to post a summary of the most recent final administrative review results for each SFA on the State agency's publicly available website no later than 30 days after the SA provides the final results of the administrative review to the SFA. The SA must also make a copy of the final administrative review report available to the public upon request.

School Fo	ood Authority Name:
Date of A	dministrative Review (Entrance Conference Date):
Date revi	ew results were provided to the School Food Authority:
Date revi	ew summary was publicly posted:
results), and of the review of the review of the review of the result of the result of the result of the result of the results	w summary must cover access and reimbursement (including eligibility and certification review n SFA's compliance with the meal patterns and the nutritional quality of school meals, the result new of the school nutrition environment (including food safety, local school wellness policy, and we foods), compliance related to civil rights, and general program participation. At a minimum, a include the written notification of review findings provided to the SFAs Superintendent or that as required at 7 CFR 210.18(i)(3).
General I	Program Participation
	What Child Nutrition Programs does the School Food Authority participate in? (Select all that pply)
	School Breakfast Program National School Lunch Program Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Afterschool Snack Special Milk Program Seamless Summer Option
	Does the School Food Authority operate under any Special Provisions? (Select all that apply)  Community Eligibility Provision  Special Provision 1  Special Provision 2  Special Provision 3
Review F	indings
	Were any findings identified during the review of this School Food Authority?  Yes □ No  f yes, please indicate the areas and what issues were identified in the table below.

YES	NO	REVIEW FINDINGS		
		A. Program Access and Reimbursement		
		YES NO		
		☐ ☐ Certification and Benefit Issuance		
		□ □ Verification		
		☐ ☐ Meal Counting and Claiming		
		Finding(s) Details:		
		1)		
		2)		
		D. Mool Bottoms and Nytwitional Quality		
		B. Meal Patterns and Nutritional Quality YES NO		
		☐ ☐ Meal Components and Quantities		
		☐ ☐ Offer versus Serve		
		☐ ☐ Dietary Specifications and Nutrient Analysis		
		Finding(s) Details:		
		1)		
		-7		
		2)		
		C. School Nutrition Environment		
		YES NO		
		☐ ☐ Food Safety		
		☐ ☐ Local School Wellness Policy		
		□ □ Competitive Foods		
		□ □ Other		
		Finding(s) Details:		
		1)		
		2)		
		2)		
		D. Civil Rights		
		Finding(s) Details:		
		1)		
		2)		